THE
CHRIS
RAINBOW HOME

Break the cycle of abuse...beginning with children

PLEASE HELP OUR GAY HOMELESS YOUTH!

January 20, 2000

Dear Friends,

You are invited to become a member of the Host Committee for a special event that will be held at the Lowe Gallery in Buckhead on the evening of Monday, February 28, to celebrate the opening of a home for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered homeless youth. The home, under the auspices of CHRIS Homes, Inc. (Children Have Rights in Society), and the Rainbow Steering Committee, will open later this month in a wonderful East Atlanta neighborhood. At the event, our guests will be joined by the CHRIS Homes staff and the Rainbow Home residents while enjoying hors d'oeuvres from Carole Parks Catering.

Atlanta's GLBT community has been struggling with a way to address the growing problem of our homeless youth. Some of our younger GLBT brothers and sisters are living on the streets using any way possible to make it on their own. They sleep under bridges, lie about their ages to obtain work, pool money to rent motel rooms, and often are driven to other more dangerous means just to survive. These young people are in need of a safe haven. This home provides that safe haven, as well as food, support, encouragement, skills training, and counseling sessions, while they find employment and safely transition into the community.

CHRIS Homes has agreed to bring its years of experience and award winning management to this project. The Federal Government has already awarded CHRIS Homes a $200,000 grant to operate this family home during the year 2000. However, the annual total cost of operating the home is approximately $292,000. CHRIS Homes will contribute $32,000 to these operating expenses, leaving a shortfall of approximately $60,000. This is our challenge -- to raise $60,000 per year so that our GLBT youth will finally have a safe environment to live.

The mission of CHRIS Homes is to break the cycle of abuse . . . beginning with children. The Rainbow Home is the first family home in Atlanta for GLBT youth. Please help us make it successful by becoming a member of the Host Committee and support our future! Attached is a response form outlining the different levels of sponsorship. Please respond by Friday, February 11, to join the Host Committee so we may include your name on the invitation.

Many thanks for your support, and we hope to see you on February 28th at the Lowe Gallery.

CHRIS Homes Staff
Kathy Colbenson
CEO
Donna McKinney
Development Director
Kyle Anderson
Program Director

Steering Committee
Ken Britt, Co-Chair
Judy Wells, Co-Chair

Shirley Adams
Michael Alvear
Saralyn Chesnut, Ph.D.
Nancy Edmondson
Joan Garner
David Gillespie
Carol Harrison
Bob Mathis
Rev. Brian McAdams
Becky Nelson
Randy New
Rick Partridge
Rev. Dr. Sally Purvis
Stephanie Troncalli
Mike Wiacek

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THE CHRIS RAINBOW HOME

YES I/WE WANT TO JOIN THE HOST COMMITTEE
FOR THE FEBRUARY 28TH FUNDRAISING EVENT
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please return this form by Friday, February 11, to Judy Wells
1131 St. Charles Place, Atlanta, 30306

Or

Call: 404-870-0904 **E-mail: judywell@aol.com**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

_____ $500 Platinum Host

_____ $250 Gold Host

_____ $100 Silver Host

_____ Enclosed is my check made payable to CHRIS Homes, Inc.

_____ Please charge my _____Visa _____MC _____AE

#_____ Exp _____

Signature_____

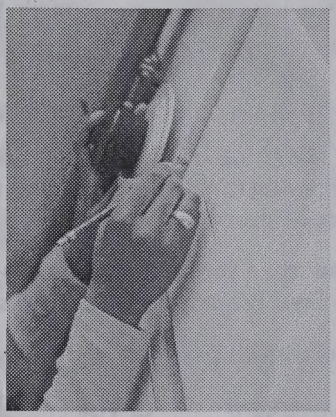
THE CHRIS RAINBOW HOME

THE RAINBOW PROJECT

A new CHRIS Homes Community

FROM PLANNING TO COMPLETION...

We call them "at risk" – and they are. They are young. They are members of sexual minorities. If they're youth of color, they endure racial and ethnic prejudice, too. Many do not even have stable home environments. They live on the streets, and they fend for themselves – often through dangerous and illegal activities.



YouthPride, Atlanta's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth center, is seeing a growing number of homeless youth. On any given night there are at least five an sometimes 10 homeless sexual minority youth ages 13 – 24. Finding shelter is often their number one priority. These youth often move from one friend's home to the next, frequently staying only one or two nights. Sometimes they will pool their resources for a motel room for a week. When these plans aren't possible, they resort to even less safe arrangements.

Unfortunately, traditional means of child welfare, such as foster care, are unavailable or unsuited for many sexual minority youngsters. Mirroring our larger society, traditional group homes may not provide an environment that's supportive and emotionally safe for sexual minority youth, and the youth often remain invisible or victimized.

Atlanta's GLBT community has been struggling with a way to address this urgent problem. We believed that if we worked together, we could provide a transitional home for homeless GLBTQ youth. But who could provide the expertise and experience to run it?

Now CHRIS Homes has agreed to bring its years of experience and award winning management skills to this project. With the dedication and commitment of CHRIS Homes, we can begin!!

How can you and your organization help raise $200,000 to build a home for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth? ——→

Here's how...

❑ I'd like to become a construction partner - $25,000

Invest in the future of our youth. These funds will make possible the purchase and renovation of our home. Your name or organization will appear on a plaque at the entrance to the home.

❑ Adopt a room

Contribute to the finishing and decorating of individual spaces. Your name or organization will appear on the door to your selected room.

- ❍ Bedroom - $5000
- ❍ Dining Room - $5000
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❑ I'd like to give a contribution for furnishings and accessories:

❍ $25 ❍ $50 ❍ $75 ❍ $100 ❍ $250 ❍ $500 ❍ $1000

❑ I'd like to host a fundraiser for The Rainbow Project. Please call me with the details.

Provide the finishing touches that will make this house a safe home. Invite your friends and colleagues. A member of the project would be pleased to attend and answer questions.

Please make your checks payable to CHRIS Homes, Inc. and put "Rainbow Project" in the memo section.

If you wish to pay by credit card, please complete the following:

❑ Mastercard ❑ Visa ❑ American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Please mail this form with your contribution to:
CHRIS Homes, Inc. • 1447 Peachtree Street • Suite 600 • Atlanta, Georgia 30309

If you are interested in making a stock transfer or for further information, please contact Judy Wells at 404.870.0904.

A few words from early supporters:

"We look forward to working with CHRIS Homes to establish a transitional living home for "at risk" GLBTQ youth. The need is here. The time is right. We are excited to be a part of The Rainbow Project." **Judy Wells and Jane Seville, Intown Renovators**

"YouthPride knows first hand the overwhelming obstacles faced by Atlanta's homeless and at-risk GLBT youth. We applaud CHRIS Home's willingness to put its formidable skills and experience to the challenge of addressing those needs. The Rainbow Project has our wholehearted and enthusiastic support." **Linda Ellis, Executive Director, YouthPride**

"This need has existed for quite some time. We are excited about the completion of the first house and many more thereafter. We look forward to providing support to CHRIS Homes and the project advisory council. Let's pull together to create a safer world for our kids." **Carol Harrison, President, Lazer Age Communications**

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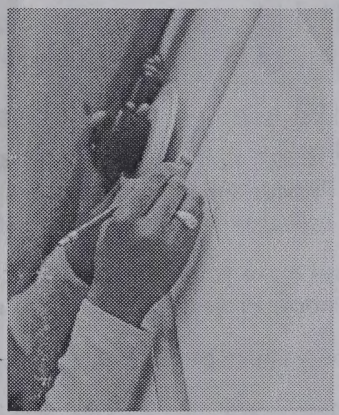

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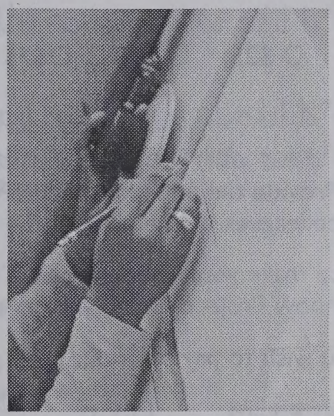

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Send letter to:

Kathy Colbenson, LMFT
CEO, CHRIS Homes, Inc.
1447 Peachtree Street
Suite 600
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Please reference - Re: Application for 93.550 Grant for Transitional Living Program

Sample:

This letter is in support of CHRIS Homes, Inc. grant application to the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services for funding that would allow CHRIS Homes to expand the agency's services to operate a transitional living group home for homeless sexual minority youth.

Here you need to reference your knowledge (or your organization's knowledge/awareness) of the unmet need, saying something about numbers of homeless sexual minority youth if you can.

If you are in a position to make referrals, please include a commitment to participate in outreach efforts.

If you are in a position to provide any kind of help – volunteers, mentoring, speaking about employment, education, etc. – please reference your intent to do so.

If you are willing to make a monetary commitment to support the project, please say that too.

Your letter also needs to reference CHRIS Homes' reputation for providing quality services to youth and their families and it's reputation for effective management practices. CHRIS won the 1998 Managing for Excellence Award by the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta.

THANK FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT.

Kathy

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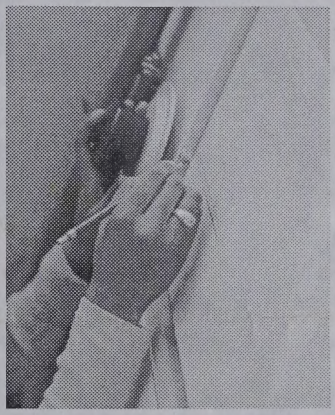

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